

Message Text

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12

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-07 FEA-01 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

/117 W

----- 088740

R 310811Z JUL76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9552

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL MTN GENEVA

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DEPT PASS USDA

MONROVIA FOR AGATT

EO 11652: N/A

TAGA: EAGR, ETRD, EEC, IV

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SUB: EC COMMISSION PROPOSAL TO TAX VEGETABLE, FISH
AND MARINE OIL

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 06900 B) STATE 172249 C) DAKAR 438
D) EC BURSELS 07413

1. EMBOFF RECENTLY MET WITH ALBERT VANIE, GENERAL SECRETARY
OF SODEPALM, LARGE GOIC OWNED COMBINE FOR DEVELOPMENT
OF PALM OIL INDUSTRY AND PRINCIPAL IVORIAN
INTERST GROUP CONCERNED WITH VEGETABLE IOL TRADE.
DISCUSSION CENTERED AROUND POLICY PROPOSED BY
EC COMMISSION, DESCRIBED REFS A AND B, TO TAX IMPORTED
OIL SNA FATS.

2. VANIE, WHO STRESSED HE IS WORKING LEVEL RATHER
THAN POLICY MAKING OFFICIAL (ALTHOUGH VANIE IS SECOND
IN COMMAND AT SODEPALM), INDICATED SOMEWHAT CONFUSED
UNDERSTANDING OF EC COMMISSION'S PROPOSED POLICY AND
ITS EFFECT ON IVORY COAST TRADE WITH EC COUNTRIES.

3. WHILE VANIE APPARENTLY AWARE OF DECISION EC COMMISSION
TOOK ON JULY 17, VANIE'S DESCRIPTION DIFFERED GREATLY
FROM PROPOSED POLICY DESCRIBED REFS A AND B.

4. TO WIT: VANIE EXPLAINED EC COUNTRIES HAD PREVIOUSLY
ACCORDED CERTAIN AFRICAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING IVORY COAST,
A HIGHER THAN WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR PALM OIL SOLD TO
COMMUNITY. NOW, ACCORDING TO VANIE, EC COMMISSION WOULD
MERELY ABOLISH PREFERENTIAL BUYING PRICE, BUT WOULD
CONTINUE TO BUY OILS AT PREVAILING WORLD MARKET
PRICE. VANIE DENIED EC COUNTRIES INTENDED TO IMPOSE
SPECIAL TAX ON IMPORTED OIL. VANIE ALSO DENIED THIS NEW
POLICY WOULD GREATLY AFFECT IVORY COAST OIL TRADE
WITH EUROPE.

5. ACCORDING TO VANIE, 1975 IVORIAN EXPORTS OF PALM
OIL WENT TO FOLLOWING COUNTRIES.

COUNTRY	PERCENTAGE OF EXPORTS
BELGIUM	2 PER CENT
FRANCE	20 PERCENT
ITALY	8 PER CENT

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NETHERLANDS	16 PER CENT
WEST GERMANY	36 PER CENT

SUB TOTAL EC COUNTRIES 82 PERCENT

CANADA	1 PERCENT
GHANA	2 PERCENT
SWITZERLAND	5 PERCENT

UNITED STATES 9 PERCENT
OTHER 1 PERCENT

TOTAL 100 PER CENT

6. VANIE INDICATED THAT NEW ECPOLICY REMOVES SPECIAL INCENTIVE FOR IVORYCOAST TO SEL TO EC MEMBER COUNTRIES, BUT UNAWARE OF NANY POSITIE DISINCENTIVE TO TRADE WITH EUROPE, VANIE INDICATED IVORY COAST WOULD PROBABLY CONTIUE TO SUPPLY IT TRADITONAL CUSTOMERS AS AS EUROPEAN DEMAND FOR IVORIAN PALM OIL CONTINUES.VANIE DID INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT IVORY COAST WOULD BE MORE INTERESTED THAN BEFORE, AS RESULT OF EC POLCIY, IN EXPANDING TRADE WITH NON- EC COUNTIES PARTICULARLY WITH US. UNITL NOW, HOWEVER, LOWER FREIGHT RATES FROM IORY COAST TO EUROPE HAVE TENDED TOLIMIT SOMEWHAT US DEMAND FORIVORIAN OIL .

7. FYI, DUE TO RECENT CHANGES IN CERTAIN IVORIAN INSTITUTIONS, SODEPALM IS NO LONGER RESPONSIBLE FOR MARKETING PALM OIL IT PRODUCES. CAISSE DE STABLIISATION (IVORIAN AGRICULTRUAL COMMODITY MARKETING BOARD) NOW PERFORMS THIS FUNCTION. HOWEVER, VANIE STRESSED THAT IVORY COAST EMBASSADOR TOEC ON BRUSSELS WAS CHIEF NEGOTIATOR FOR IVORY COAST ON ALL TRADE MATTERS WITH EC COUNTRIES AND THAT THE AMBASADOR WAS PRINCIPAL IVORIAN AUTHORITY TO CONSULT ON IVORIAN TRADE POLICY IN THIS SPHERE. END FYI.

8. COMMENT. DUE TO ABOVE, EMBASSY BELIVES STATEMENT OF IVORIAN AMBASSADOR ALLUDED TO IN REF D PARA 4 IS CRICUAL TO VANIE'S MISCONCEPTION OF EC PROPOSAL, ASSUMING VANIE'SSOURCE OF INFORMATION IS AME IVORY COAST AMBASSADOR. END COMMNET.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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